

REMARKS

The Applicant has received and reviewed the Official Action mailed by the Office on 2 December 2005 (hereinafter, the "Action"), and submits this paper as a fully-responsive reply thereto. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action on the subject application.

Claims 1-10, 12-13, 16-19 and 21-24 are pending in the application. The Applicant thanks the Office for a detailed analysis presented in the Office Action. The Applicant responds to the § 102 and § 103 rejections as set forth below under appropriate headings.

Rejections Under § 102

Claims 1-10, 12 and 16-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,056,859 to Pace (hereinafter, "Pace"). The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Turning to **independent claim 1**, for convenience, the Applicant reproduces this claim here, as it would stand after entry of the above revisions:

"1. An apparatus for running wire, the apparatus comprising:

a projectile launcher, comprising:

a housing including a biasing member attached to a piston; and

a locking member for retaining the piston in a biased position and

for triggering release of the piston,

a pull string,

a projectile adapted to connect to the pull string;

wherein the piston accelerates upon release and propels the pull string attached to the projectile toward a target, and

1 *wherein the projectile and the pull string are not connected to the projectile*
2 *launcher upon release of the piston.” (emphasis added).*

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4 Without conceding the propriety of the stated rejections, and only to
5 advance the prosecution of this application, the Applicant has amended claim 1, as
6 indicated in the revisions above, to clarify further features of the apparatus.
7 Turning to the feature emphasized above in claim 1, the Applicant submits that the
8 specification supports this recitation under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st paragraph, at least
9 in Figure 2A and related description in Paragraph [0020].

10 The Applicant submits that Pace does not disclose “wherein the projectile
11 and pull string not connected to the projectile launcher upon release of the piston.”
12 Instead, the dart 15 shown by Pace remains tethered to the Pace device after the
13 piston 17 is released, and remains so until the wire or cord 14 is severed using the
14 cutters 22.

15 On at least this basis, the Applicant respectfully submits that Pace does not
16 disclose all features recited in claim 1, and thus does not support a § 102 rejection
17 of claim 1. The Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102
18 rejection of claim 1.

19 **Dependent claims 2-10, 12-13, and 16-18** depend directly or indirectly
20 from claim 1, and accordingly, the above comments directed to claim 1 apply
21 equally to these claims. Moreover, these claims recite features that, when taken
22 together with those of claim 1, further define devices not disclosed by Pace.

23 Turning to **independent claim 19**, this claim is amended to clarify further
24 features of the apparatus that are similar to those discussed above in connection
25

1 with claim 1. Thus, the above comments directed to claim 1 apply equally to
2 claim 19.

3 Rejections Under § 103

4 Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over
5 Pace in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,732,725 to Doud (hereinafter, "Doud"). The
6 Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

7 Claim 13 depends from claim 1. The Action cited Doud for its teaching
8 related to guide slots in a housing for receiving guide pins attached to the piston.
9 Without conceding that Doud provides the teaching for which it is cited in the
10 Action, the Applicant submits that Doud fails to provide the teaching missing from
11 Pace that is necessary to support a rejection of claim 1. On at least this basis, the
12 Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection of claim
13 13.

14 New Claims

15 New claims 21 and 22 depend from claim 1, and recite further features of
16 the apparatus. The comments directed above to claim 1 apply equally to claims 21
17 and 22.


18 New independent claim 23 recites features similar to those discussed above
19 in connection with claims 1 and 19. Thus, the comments directed above to claims
20 1 and 19 apply equally to claim 23. New claim 24 depends from claim 23.
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1 **Conclusion**

2 The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the
3 rejections of the pending claims. If any issue remains unresolved that would
4 prevent allowance of this case, the Examiner is requested to contact the
5 undersigned attorney to resolve the issue.

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8 Date: 16 FEB 06

Respectfully Submitted,

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